that three Foreign Law Firms have been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to open their Liaison Offices at Bombay and New Delhi for a period of three years from the date of approval letter. These Liaison Offices are not permitted to practice law in India. A Writ Petition has been filed by the Lawyers collective in the Bombay High Court wherein it has been mainly contended that the three Foreign Law Firms are not entitled to establish firms "to practise the profession of law" in this country. The High Court by way of interim order directed the RBI to conduct an enquiry in accordance with the provisions of law into the various activities, transactions or assignments undertake by the above Foreign Law Firms in India and to take appropriate action, if there is breach of any of the provisions of law. The matter is sub-judice.

(b) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Purchase of Materials

1055. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the scandals in the purchase of materials unearthed in the different divisions of Indian Railways during the last three years;

(b) the officers found guilty and action taken and proceedings against whom are pending since when;

(c) what is the amount of material seized and the quantity and type of the material; and

(d) the number of officers who have been involved in the incidents even after they retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) From 1993 to 1995, fifty six cases of irregularities of varying magnitude have been detected.

(b) Lapses on part of 81 officers were noticed, of which action against 19 has been finalised. Disciplinary proceedings against 37 officers are pending, of them against 15 since 1993, against 17 since 1994 and against 5 of 1995. Against 25 officers action is contemplated in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) In such cases only joint memorandum regarding shortage/excess noticed are recorded. In case of quality checks only sample from lots are seized for testing purposes.

(d) No officer is involved after retirement, however 22 officers who were found to be involved while in service and action initiated against them, have since retired.

No industry districts in the country

1056. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the No Industry Districts in the country at the end of Seventh Plan Period State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to set up industry in those districts; and

(c) the details of the proposals pending for setting up industry in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No Industry Districts were identified as per the District Industries Centre (DIC) Action Plan, 1979-80. A total No. of 93 districts in the country as a whole were identified as 'No Industry Districts'. These districts had no medium or large industries. A state-wise list of those 93 districts is at statement I. *(See* below).

(b) An infrastructure development Scheme in 'No Industry Districts' was introduced in April, 1983. Under the Scheme, one or two identified growth centres in each of the No Industry District were to be provided with Central assistance of a maximum of Rs. 2.00 crores for infrastructure development to attract industries in the region.